

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 18-22 are pending. Claims 18-19 have been elected for examination purposes and claims 20-22 have been withdrawn as non-elected claims.

In Section 3 of the Office Action, claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner suggests that some words be deleted and others be added to correct for the informalities.

In Section 4, the Examiner states that claims 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended claim 18 to correct for the informalities as suggested by the Examiner. As amended, claim 18 is allowable. Claim 19 is dependent from claim 18 and, therefore, is also allowable.

In Section 2, the proposed drawing corrections, filed October 15, 2001, have been approved by the Examiner. Applicant hereby submits formal drawings based on the corrected drawings.

CONCLUSION

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

As amended, claims 18-19 are allowable. Should claim 18 be allowed, applicant requests the rejoinder of the non-elected dependent claims 20-22 to the elected claims 18-19. Early allowance of claims 18-22 is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claim 18 is amended as follows:

18. (Amended) A foam cutting machine with a vertical blade strip (90') and a horizontal blade strip (90), comprising:

an apparatus body (10) having a working surface (11) linearly and reciprocally movable back and forth for moving a work piece place thereon; and

a frame (20) bridging over the apparatus body (10), the frame having two substantially upright columns on first and second sides (101, 102) of the frame (20) and two transverse beams on third and fourth sides (103, 104) of the frame (20), the two transverse beams connected between the two upright columns to define a substantially rectangular winding space for accommodating a vertical cutting device (17) and a horizontal cutting device (16), wherein

the horizontal cutting device (16) comprising:

a guide rail (21) disposed adjacent to the first side (101) of the frame (20),

a first linear slide bar (22a) disposed between the first side (101) of the frame (20) and the guide rail (21) substantially parallel to the guide rail (21),

a second linear slide bar (22b) disposed adjacent to the second side (102) of the frame (20),

a third linear slide bar (22c) disposed between the second side (102) of the frame (20) and the second linear slide bar (22b) substantially parallel to the second linear slide bar (22b),

a first blade turning unit (32a) movably engaged with the guide rail (21), the first blade turning unit (32a) having a first blade seat (33a) [for] mounting a first blade holder (51a) [for] the first blade holder (51a) holding the horizontal blade strip (90), defining one end of a working section (X) of the horizontal blade strip (90), wherein the first blade

turning unit (32a) is capable of turning the working section (X) of the horizontal blade strip at a deflection angle when cutting an irregular or curved shape;

a second blade turning unit (32b) movably engaged with the second linear slide bar (22b), the second blade turning unit (32b) having a second blade seat (33b) [for] mounting a second blade holder (51b) [for] the second blade holder (51b) holding the horizontal blade strip (90), defining the other end of the working section (X) of the horizontal blade strip (90), wherein the second blade turning unit is capable of turning the working section (X) of the horizontal blade strip along with the first blade turning unit (32a);

a wheel set (40) including a driving wheel (41) disposed near a corner between the second side (102) and the fourth side (104) of the frame (20), a first pulley (43) movably engaged with the first linear slide bar (22a), a second pulley (47) movably engaged with the third linear slide bar (22c), and two guide wheels (44, 45) separately disposed adjacent to first and second side (101, 102) near the third side (103) of the frame (20), wherein the wheel set (40) is used for winding the horizontal blade strip (90) in a closed loop with a fixed length and the wheel set further includes a [tension] guide wheel (46) disposed near the driving wheel (41) for keeping the loop in tension, and wherein the first pulley (43) is connected to a first blade turning unit (32a) for moving the first blade turning unit (32a) along the guide rail (21) when the first pulley (43) is moved along the first linear slide bar (22a); and

a transmission mechanism (23, 24) operatively connected to the first and second pulleys (43, 47) for simultaneously moving the first and second pulleys (43, 47), respectively, along the first and third linear slide bars (22a, 22c) so as to move the working section (X) up and down while maintaining the working section (X) substantially parallel to the working surface (11); and

the vertical cutting device (17) comprising:

a guide rail (21') disposed adjacent to the fourth side (104) of the frame (20),

a first linear slide bar (22'a) disposed between the fourth side (104) of the frame (20 and the guide rail (21')) substantially parallel to the guide rail (21'),

a second linear slide bar (22'b) disposed adjacent to the third side (103) of the frame (20),

a third linear slide bar (22'c) disposed between the third side (103) of the frame (20) and the second linear slide bar (22'b) substantially parallel to the second linear slide bar (22'b),

a first blade turning unit (32'a) movably engaged with the guide rail (21'), the first blade turning unit (32'a) having a first blade seat (33'a) [for] mounting a first further blade holder (51'a) [for] the first further blade holder (51'a) holding the vertical blade strip (90'), defining one end of a working section (Y) of the vertical blade strip (90'), wherein the first blade turning unit (32'a) is capable of turning the working section (Y) of the vertical blade strip (90') at a deflection angle when cutting an irregular or curved shape;

a second blade turning unit (32'b) movably engaged with the second linear slide bar (22'b), the second blade turning unit (32'b) having a second blade seat (33'b) [for] mounting a second further blade holder (51'b) [for] the second further blade holder (51'b) holding the vertical blade strip (90'), defining the other end of the working section (Y) of the vertical blade strip (90'), wherein the second blade turning unit (32'b) is capable of turning the working section (Y) of the vertical blade strip (90') along with the first blade turning unit (32'a);

a wheel set (40') including a driving wheel (41') disposed near a corner between the third side (103) and the first side (101) of the frame (20), a first pulley (43') movably engaged with the first linear slide bar (22'a), a second pulley (47') movably engaged with the third linear slide bar (22'c), two guide wheels (44', 45') separately disposed adjacent to fourth and third side (104, 103) near the second side (102) of the frame (20), wherein the wheel set (40') is used for winding the horizontal blade strip (90') in a closed loop with a fixed length and the wheel set further includes a [tension] guide wheel (46')

disposed near the driving wheel (41') for keeping the loop in tension, and wherein the first pulley (43') is connected to a first blade turning unit (32'a) for moving the first blade turning unit (32'a) along the guide rail (21') when the first pulley (43') is moved along the first linear slide bar (22'a);

a transmission mechanism (23', 24') operatively connected to the first and second pulleys (43', 47') for simultaneously moving the first and second pulleys (43', 47'), respectively, along the first and third linear slide bars (22'a, 22'c) so as to move the working section (Y) left and right while maintaining the working section (Y) substantially perpendicular to the working surface (11).